Claim Amendments:

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~for synchronizing to a transport stream, the method~~ for blind synchronization to a transport stream without any prior knowledge of transport stream characteristics, the method comprising:

receiving a transport stream having an unknown set of transport characteristics;

initializing a transport stream acquisition routine for identifying the set of transport characteristics that will allow synchronization between a system and ~~to~~ the transport stream.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than 10 seconds.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than approximately 2 seconds.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon a manually initiated request.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein initializing further includes the substeps of:

determining when no synchronization to the transport stream has been acquired, and in response periodically initializing a transport stream acquisition request; and

wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon the transport stream acquisition request.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein initializing includes periodically initializing the transport stream acquisition routine of the transport stream until the set of transport characteristics has been identified.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the set of transport characteristics includes identifying ~~the set~~ a first set of transport characteristics and determining if synchronization to the transport stream has been acquired ~~a lock has been established with the transport stream~~.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a bit ordering of a portion of data, wherein the transport stream includes a plurality of portions of data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein a portion of data is 8 bits of data, and the bit ordering is one of the first bit of 8 bits of data being the most significant bit, or the last bit of the 8 bits of data being the most significant bit.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a latching edge of a clock signal used to sample the transport stream.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a active logic level of an error signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet start signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet valid signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the set of transport characteristics includes the substep determining if the framer is locked to the transport stream.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the framer is locked to the transport stream if a predefined number of packets with a predefined start code are received.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined number of packets are sequentially received.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined number of packets are programmable.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the predefined number of packets is stored in a register.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined start code is 47h.

20. (Currently amended) A method ~~for~~ of blind synchronizing ~~synchronizing~~ to a transport stream ~~to a system~~ w/o ~~---~~, the method comprising

setting a first transport stream characteristic register to a first value;

setting a second transport stream characteristic register to a second value;

determining if a synchronization indicator is ~~received~~ generated by ~~the~~ a system within a ~~predetermined~~ first amount of time;

repeating the step of determining for a ~~predetermined~~ number of times when the synchronization indicator is ~~received~~generated, wherein synchronization is successful if a synchronization indicator is ~~received~~ generated for the ~~predetermined~~ number of times;

changing the first transport stream register to have a third value when the synchronization indicator is not ~~received~~ generated within the first ~~predetermined~~ amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating;

changing the second transport stream register to have a fourth value when the synchronization indicator is not ~~received~~ generated within the first~~predetermined~~ amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating.

21. (Previously Added) A method comprising:

receiving a set of signals to provide a transport stream, the set of signals comprising an unknown set of transport characteristics;

initializing a transport stream acquisition routine to identify the set of transport characteristics; and

synchronizing a system to the transport stream based upon the set of transport stream characteristics. ~~characteristics;~~

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine ~~set of transport characteristics~~ includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than 10 seconds.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine ~~the set of transport characteristics~~ includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than approximately 2 seconds.

24. (Previously Added) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon a manually initiated request.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing further includes:

determining when no transport stream has been acquired, and in response periodically initializing a transport stream acquisition request[[ ]]; and

wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon the transport stream acquisition request.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing includes periodically initializing the transport stream acquisition routine of for the set of signals ~~the transport stream~~ until the set of transport characteristics has been identified.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics and determining if a

synchronization the system to the transport stream ~~lock~~ has been established ~~with the transport stream~~.

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 21, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a bit ordering of a portion of data, wherein the transport stream includes a plurality of portions of data.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein a portion of data is 8 bits of data, and the bit ordering is one of the first bit of 8 bits of data being the most significant bit, or the last bit of the 8 bits of data being the most significant bit.

30. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a latching edge of a clock signal used to sample the transport stream.

31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a active logic level of an error signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 31, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet start signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 31, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet valid signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

34. (Previously Added) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of identifying the set of transport characteristics includes determining if the framer is locked to the transport stream.

35. (Previously Added) The method of claim 34, wherein the framer is locked to the transport stream if a predefined number of packets with a predefined start code are received.

36. (Previously Added) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined number of packets are sequentially received.

37. (Previously Added) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined number of packets are programmable.

38. (Previously Added) The method of claim 37, wherein the predefined number of packets is stored in a register.

39. (Previously Added) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined start code is 47h.

40. (Currently amended) A method of synchronizing a transport stream to a system, the method comprising

setting a first register to a first value representing a first transport stream characteristic;

setting a second register to a second value representing a second transport stream characteristic;

determining if a transport stream synchronization indicator ~~is received~~is generated at a system within a ~~predetermined~~ first amount of time;

repeating the step of determining for a ~~predetermined~~ number of times when the transport stream synchronization indicator is ~~received~~generated, wherein synchronization to the system is successful if a synchronization indicator is ~~received~~ generated for the ~~predetermined~~ number of times;

changing the first transport stream register to have a third value when the synchronization indicator is not ~~received~~ generated within the ~~predetermined~~ first amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating; and

changing the second transport stream register to have a fourth value when the synchronization indicator is not ~~received~~ generated within the ~~predetermined~~ first amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating.

41. (Previously Added) A method comprising:

receiving a set of signals carrying a transport stream, the set of signal comprising a clock signal and a data signal, the clock signal and the data signal having an unknown characteristics;

assuming a set of characteristics to be the unknown characteristics;

receiving a data based upon the assumed set of characteristics;

determining if the data stream is valid transport stream; and

when the transport stream is not valid, assuming as the set of characteristics a different set of characteristics and repeating the steps of receiving the data and determining until a valid transport stream is determined.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics are based on at least one of a data input, a clock input, a start indicator input, a valid indicator input, and an error indicator input.

43. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

44. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the number of times is a predetermined number of times.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

46. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

47. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the number of times is a predetermined number of times.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

49. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics are based on at least one of a data input, a clock input, a start indicator input, a valid indicator input, and an error indicator input.